

CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE



All outdoor displays of signs, to include election and campaign signs, for or against candidates or issues, are regulated by the Durham City/County Planning Department.*

The Planning Department is responsible for approving, resolving, and enforcing all sign related issues and questions. This includes issues such as size, placement and timing. The next page is information provided by the Planning Department.

**Please direct all signage questions to the
Planning Department: 560-4137**

***NC Election Law does not regulate the placement, content nor size of printed, outdoor campaign signs of the type generally placed in private yards or along public right-of-ways. NC Election Law does not require that these signs display a “paid for by” line. All rules regarding the display of these types of signs are left to local governmental bodies and their departments. In Durham County, it is the City/County Planning Department that makes and enforces these regulations and penalties.**



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ELECTION SIGNS IN DURHAM

ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGN REGULATIONS

This information is provided to assist candidates and their campaign staff in the placement of political signs.

The Durham Unified Development Ordinance regulates the posting of signs erected in connection with an election, referendum, or political event. All candidates are asked to comply with City and County Ordinances regarding signs. Illegally placed signs are subject to removal and disposal by Zoning Enforcement Officers. The actual ordinance provisions regulating these signs can be found in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 11.5.1.F available on the internet at <http://ww2.durhamnc.gov/udo/>

TIMING

Signs may be displayed 45 days before the election day of the election in which the candidate is running. For example, if the individual is running in the general election but not in the primary, the signs can be posted 45 days before the day of the general election but not 45 days before the primary. Signs may be displayed at anytime on private property with the permission of the property owner.

SIGN AREA AND HEIGHT

Signs should not exceed 6 square feet in area and not exceed 4 feet in height.
Signs should not contain animated or moving elements.

PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

Signs should not be placed on utility poles, light fixtures, utility boxes or trees. Signs should not block a driver's vision at intersections or driveways. Place signs outside of the sight triangles identified below. Signs on State rights-of-way may require permission from the NC Department of Transportation. This includes State and Federal Highways in the City and County and SR routes in the County.

SIGHT TRIANGLES

No material that would impede traffic visibility is allowed within the sight triangles. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 12.3.1 defines sight triangles as follows:

Corner lots: A sight triangle shall be formed by extending lines from the intersection of 2 streets (measured from the edge of the right-of-way) to points 25 feet from the corner lot of the intersecting rights-of-way of the intersecting streets and then connecting these 2 points.

Driveways: A sight triangle shall be formed by measuring 10 feet from the back of curb and extending 70 feet from the edge of each side of the driveway.

AFTER THE ELECTION

Signs must be removed within 15 days after the election or cessation of candidacy. Durham Solid Waste Management recommends that signs be added to recyclables and not to the general waste collection.

Questions: Call the Planning Department at (919) 560-4137